Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 239097

73

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R 251458Z SEP 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, AU, VN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN INQUIRY RE U.S. CARRIER TRADING WITH VIETNAM

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER INQUIRED OF DEPTOFF
SEPTEMBER 21 WHETHER AN AMERICAN AIR TRANSPORT COMPANY
WOULD BE ALLOWED UNDER OUR TRADE EMBARGO TO CARRY CERTAIN
AUSTRALIAN AID CARGO FROM SYDNEY TO HANOI. EMBOFF INDICATED THAT CARGO INVOLVED CONSISTED OF TWO BULLS AND TEN
COWS FOR A MODEL CATTLE FARM TO BE ESTABLISHED IN NORTH
VIETNAM AS AN AUSTRALIAN AID PROJECT. HE NOTED THAT BIDS
HAD BEEN SOUGHT IN AUSTRALIA FOR THE AIR TRANSPORTATION OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 239097

THESE ANIMALS BUT THAT ONLY TWO COMPANIES, BOTH AMERICAN--

AIRLIFT INTERNATIONAL AND TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS-HAVE RESPONDED.

- 2. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER SUCH FLIGHTS WOULD NORMALLY BE PERMITTED UNDER CURRENT U.S. REGULATIONS AND IF NOT, WHETHER EXCEPTION WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. HE STATED THAT ANY OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION WAS LIKELY TO BE MORE COSTLY AND PROBABLY LESS SATISFACTORY.
- 3. DEPTOFF INFORMED HIM SEPTEMBER 22 THAT TREASURY

FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROLS PREVENT ANY TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN U.S. COMPANIES AND VIETNAM, TO INCLUDE PAYMENTS FOR ANY REFUELING, LANDING FEES, OR OTHER EXPENSES TO THE VIETNAMESE. MOREOVER, IF THE PLANES ARE OF U.S. REGISTRY THEY WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM TRAVELING TO VIETNAM UNDER COMMERCE TRANSPORTATION ORDER T-2.

4. DEPTOFF SAID THAT THE COMPANIES INVOLVED WERE FREE TO APPLY FOR TREASURY AND/OR COMMERCE LICENSES TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THESE PROHIBITIONS. HOWEVER, NO SUCH LICENSES HAD YET BEEN APPROVED SINCE THE CONTROLS WERE IMPOSED AND, FRANKLY, THE CHANCES WERE VIRTUALLY NIL THAT ANY APPROVAL WOULD BE GIVEN IN THIS INSTANCE. KISSINGER

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